

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CU-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 191500Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASDC 3962

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON SCHLEBUSCH COMMISSION
REPORTS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0443

1. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER INTRODUCED MOTION IN HOUSE OF
ASSEMBLY AUGUST 16 THAT PARLIAMENT REGISTER ITS THANKS TO
MEMBERS OF SCHLEBUSCH COMMISSION FOR THEIR WORK AND
TAKE COGNIZANCE OF COMMISSIONS'S REPORTS ON NATIONAL UNION
OF SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS (NUSAS) AND SOUTH AFRICAN
INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR). IN HIS SPEECH OF
TRIBUTE TO SCHLEBUSCH MEMBERS, VORSTER DID NOT ANNOUNCE
THAT NUSAS OR ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION WOULD BE DECLARED
"AFFECTED ORGANIZATION." HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT SCHLEBUSCH
COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT ON NUSAS HAD BEEN REFERRED TO
ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND THAT IF REPORT REVEALED ANY CRIMINAL
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OFFENSE IT WOULD BE FUNCTION OF ATTORNEY-GENERAL TO DEAL

WITH THE MATTER. VORSTER STATED THAT CRUX OF REPORT ON NUSAS WAS ACCUSATION BY COMMISSION THAT NUSAS' ACTIONS WERE AIMED AT OVERTHROWING "THE EXISTING ORDER IN SOUTH AFRICA AND (REPLACING) IT WITH AN ANTI-CAPITALISTIC SYSTEM." HE REFERRED TO ALLEGATIONS THAT NUSAS WAS "STIRRING UP INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR UNREST" AND ENCOURAGING BLACK-WHITE POLARIZATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

2. IN ENSUING DEBATE, UNITED PARTY LEADER SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF AGREED THAT COMMISSION MEMBERS HAD DONE A GOOD JOB, ALTHOUGH UP FELT A JUDICIAL COMMISSION WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE TO A PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION. GRAAFF AND OTHER UP SPEAKERS IN THE DEBATE STRESSED UP'S OPPOSITION TO BANNING OF INDIVIDUALS. HE CALLED FOR JUDICIAL TRIBUNAL TO BE APPOINTED TO REVIEW ALL BANNINGS AND SAID BANNING ORDERS IMPOSED ON NUSAS LEADERS LAST YEAR SHOULD BE LIFTED.

3. SPEAKING FOR PROGRESSIVE PARTY, MRS. HELEN SUZNAM MOVED AN AMENDMENT TO REJECT COMMISSION REPORTS ON NUSAS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. HER AMENDMENT STATED THAT REPORTS "OFFEND AGAINST THE PRINCIPLE OF NATURAL JUSTICE THAT NO PERSON SHALL BE DEEMED GUILTY EXCEPT AFTER A FAIR TRIAL IN AN OPEN COURT," AND REQUESTED GOVERNMENT TO RECOMMEND TO STATE PRESIDENT THAT HE "TERMINATE THE COMMISSION FORTHWITH."

4. COMMENT: VORSTER'S NOTION WILL, OF COURSE, BE ACCEPTED AND PROG AMENDMENT DEFEATED. OVER WEEKEND, NEWSPAPERS SPECULATED THAT ACTION TO DECLARE NUSAS AN AFFECTED ORGANIZATION WAS IMMINENT AND COULD TAKE PLACE THIS WEEK. WHILE THIS QUITE POSSIBLE, DIE VADERLAND'S PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT TELLS US THAT HE HAS BEEN INFORMED BY RELIABLE GOVERNMENT SOURCE THAT WHEN VORSTER SPEAKS NEXT WEEK DURING DEBATE ON BUDGET SECTION HAVING TO DO WITH APPROPRIATION FOR PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, HE WILL ANNOUNCE SAG'S DECISION TO CLASSIFY AS AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS NUSAS, CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE, SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION, AND BLACK PEOPLES' CONVENTION.
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